

NFPA® 1003

Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

2015 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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NFPA® 1003

Standard for

Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

2015 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1003, *Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and released by the Correlating Committee on Professional Qualifications. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 11, 2014, with an effective date of December 1, 2014, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1003 was approved as an American National Standard on December 1, 2014.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1003

In 1972, the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations (JCNFSO) created the National Professional Qualifications Board for the Fire Service (NPQB) to facilitate the development of nationally applicable performance standards for uniformed fire service personnel. On December 14, 1972, the Board established four technical committees to develop those standards using the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards-making system. The initial committees addressed the following career areas: fire fighter, fire officer, fire service instructor, and fire inspector and investigator.

The Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications met from 1976 to 1978 to produce the first edition of this document. Adopted by the Association in 1978, NFPA 1003 was the third in the series of fire fighter professional qualifications standards.

The original concept of the professional qualification standards, as directed by the JCNFSO and the NPQB, was to develop an interrelated set of performance standards specifically for the fire service. The various levels of achievement in the standards were to build upon each other within a strictly defined career ladder. In the late 1980s, revisions of the standards recognized that the documents should stand on their own merit in terms of job performance requirements for a given field. Accordingly, the strict career ladder concept was abandoned, except for the progression from fire fighter to fire officer. The later revisions, therefore, facilitated the use of the documents by other than the uniformed fire services.

In the mid 1990's, all of the Pro-Qual standards were converted to the JPR format to be consistent with each other. Each JPR consists of the task to be performed; the tools, equipment, or materials that must be provided to complete the task; evaluation parameters and performance outcomes; and lists of the requisite knowledge and skills one must have to be able to perform the tasks.

The intent of the technical committee was to develop clear and concise JPRs that can be used to determine that an individual, when measured to the standard, possesses the skills and knowledge to perform as a job related to the particular standard.

Changes in the standard for the 2005 edition included the requirement that for certification as an airport fire fighter, the candidate meet the requirements for Fire Fighter II defined in NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. Also included were changes bringing the standard into conformance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

For the 2010 edition, a job-task analysis was completed by the committee to ensure that all the requirements were still relevant given the ever-changing world of ARFF. In addition, the committee, as directed by the Technical Correlating Committee, replaced the term *certified* with the term *qualified*. The committee added a skills maintenance requirement for ARFF personnel. The most significant change in the 2010 was the elimination of proximity personal protective equipment (PrPPE) from the minimum requirements. By setting the minimum at PrPPE, the standard had eliminated the ability of the AHJ to decide, given varying situations, whether PPE was acceptable versus PrPPE. The committee also removed Annex B from the document.

For the 2015 edition, the technical committee performed a job task analysis in collaboration with the Technical Committee on Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting ensuring that the position of Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter was consistent with recognized trends within the industry. This analysis redefined the use of some airport apparatus to fire vehicles with handlines. The technical committee removed the job performance requirements for wheeled-extinguishers and mandatory response time, citing variables from airport to airport. Job performance requirements related to airport access were clarified.



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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for the management of the NFPA Professional Qualifications Project and documents related to professional qualifications for fire service, public safety, and related personnel.

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Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on professional qualifications required of fire fighters.



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